



St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead



www.stlukeschurchmaidenhead.org.uk

[This sheet is also available on the above website]

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Week commencing: 29th November 2020

Advent Sunday

A very happy new (liturgical - church) year to you all!

Sunday is Advent Sunday when the church starts a whole new year. As the church's year follows the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, so we start this week to prepare for his birth.

While Christmas will be very different this year, it is perhaps a good time to remember Advent and renew our keeping of it. Advent is a time of waiting, of preparation, of judgement and of repentance and looking forward to good news from God – all timely themes right now. It is a time in which God's light penetrates the darkness of the world – so much needed.

I do hope that the Advent 'calendars' that many of you have received will help you to keep Advent with renewed spiritual energy this year. The passage that the diocese has set for Dwelling in the Word (reflecting on) before meetings is also, I think, helpful. It is from Philippians 1.27-2.13, and appended to this weekly sheet. You may like to use it to reflect on over Advent.

That passage emphasises Jesus' humility, and his model of putting others first. Perhaps that is something we can model for ourselves as the impact of the pandemic makes us grumpy (well, it makes me grumpy!). **Kindness** might be our motto in all our dealings with each other.

This week, our 10 am Sunday service will be the Advent Ring Service, zoomed from church. At this service, which is familiar to many of you, we will be lighting all five of the candles on our Advent Ring as we recall the story of Advent. You may like to have your own Advent Ring or Wreath at home and light your candles along with us. Traditionally the church uses three purple candles (the colour of the season), one pink (for Mary) and a white in the centre, but you could use any candles you like, of any shape or size or colour. I have five chunky ones on a tray in my hearth at the vicarage.

The link to join the service is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85097790796?pwd=NUJlBZE5PL3hIOFEyUm11OTNxc0lnUT09>

Meeting ID: 850 9779 0796

Password: 900393

It is not easy to get high quality musical sound on Zoom (and our own broadband quality varies too) but the service is also recorded and the sound quality there is great – so do look on the website later in the day to hear that, and huge thanks to Dave Sopp for his hard work on this.

We continue to offer a Zoom Morning Prayer daily at 9am (except Mondays) and Evening Prayer at 5pm on Fridays. The order of service can be found on our website or the Daily Prayer App. Just ask if you need help finding it. The order for Advent is now on the website (the App adjusts itself).

The links are:

Zoom Morning Prayer,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84140066083?pwd=ZlZ0bXgvQ0t1UTlZcW10YlFNSnpPZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 4006 6083

Passcode: 544130

Zoom Evening Prayer at 5pm on Fridays:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83350227277?pwd=QnhoT0E1YXFid09BeDZTUFFxa2JCQT09>

Meeting ID: 833 5022 7277

Passcode: 262906

Morning Prayer, daily (except Monday, and Sunday at present) on Zoom

Readings for the week beginning Sunday 29th November are:

Sunday	Psalm 44	Luke 12.35-48	
Monday (St. Andrew)	Psalm 47	Ezekiel 47. 1-12	John 12. 20-32
Tuesday	Psalm 80	Isaiah 43. 1-13	Revelation 20
Wednesday	Psalm 7	Isaiah 43. 14-end	Revelation 21. 1-8
Thursday	Psalm 42	Isaiah 44. 1-8	Revelation 21. 9-21
Friday	Psalm 25	Isaiah 44. 9-23	Revelation 21.21-22.5
Saturday	Psalm 9	Isaiah 44. 24-45.13	Revelation 22.6-end
Sunday	Psalm 80	Luke 1.5-20	

Evening Prayer at 5pm on Fridays, on Zoom

The readings for the coming week are: Psalm 17

Matthew 13.24-43

Sundays at Six: Night Prayer on Zoom on the first and third Sundays of each month, use the little blue book: 'Prayers for the use of the Church during the coronavirus outbreak'.

Next: **TONIGHT**, then 13th December. This will continue on first and third Sundays in the new year.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362755135?pwd=bmZYRkdIbW1SUjhtaHlNMnBDZlF1QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 6275 5135

Passcode: 737489

All Saints Church is holding **Night Prayer on Zoom**, weekly at 8pm on Thursdays, and anyone is welcome to join in.

As of next week churches can re-open for public worship and so there will be a live service of Holy Communion at 10 am in church (also Zoomed and recorded) on each Sunday leading up to Christmas, preceded by Zoomed Morning Prayer at 9 am.

The **Wednesday** 10 am Holy Communion service will also resume on 9th and 23rd December.

As we will be in tier 2 it is important to remember that while we may worship together, ***we should not be gathering to chat face to face before or after the services.***

Prayer suggestions for this week:

- Give thanks that churches can re-open and pray for our keeping of Advent and Christmas
- That we might be kind to each other – in 'thought, word and deed'
- That all national and local leaders might work together for the health and wellbeing of our nation and all people
- For all NHS staff, carers, Care Home staff and those caring for the sick, and for those in RBWM who are testing positive for Covid 19.
- For our brothers and sisters of faith at the Synagogue, Mosques, Gurdwara and elsewhere
- For the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan, that fighting may cease and ordinary people and their homes might be protected
- For the church in Ethiopia and the people of that country, Egypt and the Horn of Africa
- For our planning for the Christmas Tree Trail.

- Those whose anniversary of baptism falls in November: Eddie Freear, Arthur Freear, Lillian Pyrke, Owen Green, Lilly Hutchinson, Robert Midgley, Beatrix Ribton, Isabella Burdett, Fred Wilson.
- For all those who live and work in Gordon Road
- The sick and those who care for them: John Francis, Tony Lucas, Monica Olley, Stan Swansborough, Tony Boaks, and Mick Curley
- Those who have died recently, and those who mourn them
- Those whose anniversary of death falls in November: Joan Joyce, Stuart Courtier, Eileen Hurst, Ruth Keys, Mary Church, Thomas Speakman, Peter Bell, Margaret Bowdery, George Newman, Catherine Vincent, Trevor Headington, Francisca Knowles, Marcus Lawes, James Herbert, Mary Fox, Alice Newman, Roy Rance, Brian Roberts, Charles Hummer, Evelyn Surridge, Olive Powell, Beryl Maguire, Jack Jones, John Lovegrove, Dennis Jones, Christopher Haywood.

Rotas for next week: 6th December

Read: A young person TBC Intercede: Simon Bader

Antibac after service:

Our church is floodlit at night.

This week the floodlighting has been sponsored this week by

Clare and Matthew Burdett,

'to celebrate our third wedding anniversary on 2nd December and the first anniversary of Isabella's Christening on 17th November'.



To sponsor the floodlighting just call or email Revd. Sally.

What's on... and other news...

Quiet morning: in preparation for Advent, Revd. Phyl will be leading a Zoomed Quiet Morning **TOMORROW - Saturday 28th November**, from 9.45 am - 12.30 pm. Everyone is warmly invited to join in, having a little space for reflection together on Zoom and in the comfort of your own home - or walking nearby. It would help Phyl if you could just let her know that you'd like to join in – she may have a little something to get to you beforehand! Email: fourbeaus@btinternet.com
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85292715042?pwd=bkJ2SjFqVjhXc01BdldObkRtZVY1Zz09>
 Meeting ID: 852 9271 5042 Passcode: 699448

Christmas Tree Trail

So far we have around 50 trees booked into our trail – it is not quite too late to take part.

We also need now:

- Offers of help to distribute posters /flyers etc
- You to print and display the CTT poster with this email
- TELL people about it and encourage entries
- Prayer for the whole event.

Although there will be no trees at church, we will still have a Memory Tree and Prayer Tree in the church for people to leave prayers and memorials – tags will be available in church for this – in a socially distanced way.

Do look at the dedicated CTT website:

<https://stlukeschristmastreetrail.co.uk/>

Church Quiz: James Ellins is kindly running another online Quiz for us on Thursday 10th December at 8.15 pm. Do join in as a family, individual or pairs / groups (by phone):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89642823556?pwd=SUhGM0E3STJCaGx5anFNclMyN2p3QT09>

Meeting ID: 896 4282 3556

Passcode: 950431

Christmas services: we are still waiting on the fine detail from the government and the national Church. We will keep you updated in this weekly email but we are hoping to offer, live and socially distanced:

Sunday 20th December: 4pm and 6pm, Live (shorter) Carol services (**must be booked**)

Christmas Eve: 4.30 pm: Zoomed / Recorded Crib service

9.00 pm: 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day: 10.00 am: Festal Parish Communion

Messy Church: we will be doing Messy Christmas at 4pm on Zoom on Friday 4th December. Do contact Revd. Sally for the Zoom link (not public for safeguarding reasons) and for an advance craft pack.

The church will be open for private prayer and for putting tags on the Memory Tree and Prayer Tree from Thursday 10th – 24th December, at these times each day:

Monday 3-4pm

Tuesday 10 – 11 am

Weds 11am – midday

Thursday 1-2pm

Friday 2-3 pm

Sat 10-11 am

Sundays 11 am – midday, 2-3 pm

Christmas Eve: 10 am – 4pm

More Advent resources: do look at: <https://adventonline.faith/> for loads of resources and ideas.

Christmas cards: in past years we have offered a table in church for members of the congregation to leave Christmas cards for each other to collect. Some people may choose not to send cards this year and some may quarantine post / cards before opening, so you may find it easier to deliver cards on your daily exercise, or give your friendly postie work by using the Postal service. If anyone is unable to get out and about please let Revd. Sally know and we can arrange for a small number of local cards to be delivered by more agile folk (**offers welcomed!**). Please do not just leave cards in church because it is likely that the recipients may not be in church. Thank you.

Bishop Olivia led our last Deanery Synod with a very helpful address and discussion. You can hear her address here: <https://youtu.be/ydQLmU-1IZA>

Smile Amazon Fundraising: as you do your online Christmas shopping, don't forget to sue Amazon Smile and EasyFundraising:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> **1129951** will immediately list just us in the search results – click the Select button to confirm the choice.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stlukesmaidenhead>

Philippians 1.27-2.13

You may like to use this passage to reflect on during Advent – what is God saying to you, through this?

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.



If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this update and does not have access to the internet, please do print a copy for them. Please note that the church office is open on reduced hours so urgent communication should be to the vicarage telephone and my email. Vicar: The Reverend Sally Lynch (01628) 783033
The Annual Year Book with contact details for key parish personally can be accessed on the church website:
<https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/5f43dadd67a8/content/pages/documents/1596271439.pdf>